

**Claims**

1. (Previously Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a hospital, comprising:

a message processor for receiving message data including a first income amount total value, representing cash income received during a first time period, an associated first income source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value;

a data processor for automatically processing said received message data by,

identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account with said first income amount total value to indicate said first income amount total value received by said identified income account during said first time period,

collating and combining data representing total values from a plurality of income accounts to provide a first income amount total value representing combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period.

2. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts received for services rendered to multiple patients during said first time period and

said data processor combines said reimbursement income amounts with said cash income total value for said departments during said first time period to provide a total amount.

3. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 2 1, wherein

said received message data is derived from a processing device associating a user selected income source identifier with said first income amount total value; and

said processing device provides cash register functions.

4. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said message data includes a medical insurance reimbursement income  
amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient  
identifier, and

    said data processor,

    identifies an income account associated with said patient based  
on said patient identifier, and updates said identified patient income account to reflect  
said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

    creates said financial statement record using said combined  
cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

5. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash  
transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a hospital  
department, and said first income amount total value comprises a total transaction  
income amount value for said first time period.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, wherein  
a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement  
comprising a negative income amount value.

7. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein  
said received message data comprises a file and  
an individual cash transaction comprises an electronic funds transfer.

8. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement  
income amounts for multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a  
medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient  
identifier, said patient identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing  
said associated medical reimbursement income amount,

    said data processor identifies an income account associated with said  
one of said patients based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified  
income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount  
value received and

    creates said financial statement record using said combined cash  
income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

9. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said received message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during said first time period and associated with a hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a transaction income amount value, and

    said data processor accumulates a plurality of individual cash transaction income amount values for transactions performed during said first time period for said hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for said first time period.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
    said source identifier incorporates an account number identifying said income account associated with said one of said departments.

11. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
    said data processor updates an account for the overall hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

12. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein  
    said data processor further updates an account for a plurality of hospitals including said hospital in response to said first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein  
    said financial statement record identifies at least one of, (a) a total income received by individual departments of said plurality of departments during said first time period, (b) total income received by individual departments of said plurality of departments during said first time period deposited in a bank, and (c) individual cash transactions performed during said first time period by individual hospital departments.

14. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first time period comprises at least one of: (i) a day, (ii) a week, (iii) a month, and (iv) a year, and

said plurality of departments internal to said hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department, (j) an imaging department, and (k) a laboratory.

15. (Previously Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising:

a message processor for receiving a plurality of messages corresponding to a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a hospital department, and an individual message includes a transaction income amount total value and an associated first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated transaction income amount value;

a data processor for processing said received plurality of messages for, identifying an income account associated with said one of said departments based on said first income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount total value received during said first period,

accumulating a plurality of individual cash transaction income amount total values for transactions performed during said first time period for said hospital department to provide a cumulative total value for said first time period,

collating and combining cumulative total values associated with a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount total value representing combined cash income for said departments during said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said combined cash income total value for said departments during said first time period.

16. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein said received plurality of messages comprise a file, and said individual message is conveyed within said file and

said messages include a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value for services rendered to a particular patient and an associated patient identifier, and

said data processor,

identifies an income account associated with said patient based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified patient income account to reflect said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

creates said financial statement record using said combined cash income total value and data derived from said patient income account.

17. (Previously Amended) A cash accounting system for use in a hospital, comprising:

a message processor for,

receiving message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, and

receiving message data including a second income amount total value determining income received during said first time period and an associated second source identifier, said second source identifier identifying one of a plurality of organizations external to said hospital providing said associated second income amount total value; and

a data processor for collating and combining a plurality of first income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of departments to provide a first income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments for said first time period, and for collating and combining a plurality of second income amount total values from a corresponding plurality of organizations to provide a second income amount cumulative total value representing combined cash income from said organizations for said first time period and

creating a financial statement record using said cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative total value for said first time period.

18. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said first time period comprises at least one of, (i) a day, (ii) a week, (iii) a month and (iv) a year, and

    said plurality of departments internal to said hospital include at least two of, (a) a cafeteria, (b) a garage, (c) a shop, (d) a pharmacy, (e) a café or restaurant, (f) cashiers office, (g) a clinical department, (h) an outpatient department, (i) an inpatient department.

19. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said data processor combines said cumulative total value representing combined cash income for said departments and said second income amount cumulative total value for said first time period to derive a value representing combined cash income for said hospital during said first time period.

20. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said plurality of organizations external to said hospital include at least two organizations of, (a) a health maintenance organization (HMO), (b) an insurance company, (c) a patient, (d) a debt collection agency, (e) another healthcare provider enterprise.

21. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said message data including said first income amount total value is received from at least one of, (a) a cash register, and (b) a processing device with cash register functions.

22. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a medical insurance reimbursement income amount value and an associated patient identifier, said patient identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated medical reimbursement income amount,

    said data processor identifies an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said patient identifier, and updates said identified income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received and

    creates said financial statement record using data derived from said patient income account.

23. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said message data identifies a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during a first time period and associated with a hospital department, and said first income amount total value comprises a total transaction income amount value during said first time period.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein a transaction income amount value comprises a disbursement comprising a negative income amount value.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 17, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

26. (Previously Amended) An automatic cash accounting system for use in a healthcare enterprise, comprising:

a message processor for receiving message data including a first income amount total value determining income received during a first time period and an associated first source identifier, said first source identifier identifying one of a plurality of departments internal to said hospital providing said associated first income amount total value, said message data also indicating a plurality of individual cash transactions performed during said first time period and associated with multiple patients, and an individual message data item includes a transaction income amount value and an associated transaction income source identifier, said transaction income source identifier identifying one of a plurality of patients providing said associated transaction income amount value;

a data processor for identifying an income account associated with said one of said patients based on said transaction income source identifier, and for updating said identified income account to indicate said transaction income amount value received by said identified income account during said first time period and for creating a financial statement record using said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value for said first time period.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data comprises a file.

28. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data identifies medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients for services rendered to said multiple patients in said first time period-and

    said data processor identifies income accounts associated with said multiple patients based on said associated patient identifiers, and updates said identified income accounts to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.

29. (Previously Amended) A system according to claim 28, wherein said data processor combines said hospital department first income amount total value and said transaction income amount value and said medical insurance reimbursement income amounts for multiple patients in creating said financial statement record.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein said received message data identifies a single medical insurance reimbursement income amount for multiple patients, and identifies a source organization of said reimbursement income amount, and

    said data processor identifies an organization income account associated with said source organization, and updates said organization income account to indicate said medical insurance reimbursement income amount value received.